

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /084 W

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R 121420Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5369

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 3962

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PO, SW

SUBJECT: MEETING OF SOCIALIST LEADERS ON PORTUGAL

REF: (A) STATE 188416

(B) STOCKHOLM 3804

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED AUGUST 2 STOCKHOLM MEETING OF
SOCIALIST LEADERS WITH BERNT CARLSSON, INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS SECRETARY OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (WHO WAS
PRESENT AT MEETING) AND WITH MFA OFFICIAL JAN ELIASSON,
WHO WAS PRIVY TO REPORT PREPARED BY PRIME MINISTER
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PALME ON CONFERENCE. FOLLOWING POINTS EMERGED FROM OUR

DISCUSSIONS:

(A) THERE WERE CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCES IN VIEWS AMONG PARTICIPANTS REGARDING HOW SOCIALIST PARTIES OF WESTERN EUROPE SHOULD ASSIST SOARES AND DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN PORTUGAL. ACCORDING TO ELIASSON, THERE WERE "STRONG FEELINGS" ON THIS ISSUE, WITH MITTERAND AND WILSON, AMONG OTHERS, EXTREMELY SKEPTICAL OF ANY ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS AT PRESENT TIME IN VIEW OF CURRENT TURMOIL IN THAT COUNTRY AND UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHETHER COUNTRY MIGHT BECOME OUTRIGHT COMMUNISTS DICTATORSHIP.

(B) PERHAPS AS A RESULT OF THIS DIVERGENCE OF VIEWS, "ACTION" COMMITTEE WAS ESTABLISHED UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF PRIME MINISTER PALME TO STUDY FUTURE STEPS, INCLUDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, TO AID PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS. ACCORDING TO CARLSSON, OTHER MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE WILL BE MITTERAND, WILLIE BRANDT, HAROLD WILSON, AND "ONE OR TWO OTHERS." NO DATE WAS SET FOR COMMITTEE TO REPORT BACK ON ITS FINDINGS. CARLSSON ESTIMATED THAT IT WOULD BE SEPTEMBER AT EARLIEST.

(C) CARLSSON SAID HE WAS "SHOCKED" BY EXTREMELY PESSIMISTIC ANALYSIS OF PORTUGUESE SITUATION PRESENTED BY SOARES. HE SAID HE HAD MET SOARES REPEATEDLY OVER PAST YEAR AND HAD NEVER SEEN HIM SO PESSIMISTIC -- WHICH WAS IN SHARP CONTRAST TO RELATIVELY OPTIMISTIC LINE TAKEN BY SOARES IN PUBLIC STATEMENT IN STOCKHOLM.

(D) PRIME MINISTER PALME, ACCORDING TO BOTH SOURCES, TOOK PRAGMATIC APPROACH TOWARDS PORTUGUESE SITUATION. ALTHOUGH AGREEING THAT SOARES AND SOCIALIST PARTY ARE CHIEF HOPES FOR DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT IN PORTUGAL, PALME BELIEVES TIES MUST BE MAINTAINED WITH ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT, WHICH HE IS CONVINCED IS IN POWER TO STAY. IF AFM IS ISOLATED FROM WESTERN EUROPE, PALME MAINTAINS, IT WILL BECOME EVEN MORE REPRESSIVE. IN CONTRAST TO "WAIT AND SEE" ATTITUDE OF SOME EUROPEAN SOCIALIST PARTIES, SWEDEN WILL CONTINUE BILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL, REGARDLESS OF DECISION OF EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS.

(E) DISCUSSING FUTURE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT POLICY TOWARDS PORTUGAL, ELIASSON SAID GOS INTENDS TO PROPOSE TECHNICAL AID PROGRAM OF ROUGHLY 10 MILLION KRONOR (APPROXIMATELY \$2.5 MILLION) TO SWEDISH PARLIAMENT WHEN IT CONVENES IN FALL.
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ELIASSON EXPRESSED CONCERN AT GROWING SKEPTICISM TOWARDS AID TO PORTUGAL ON PART OF SWEDISH OPPOSITION PARTIES, FOR GOS HOPES TO WIN SUPPORT OF NON-SOCIALISTS AS WELL FOR ITS AID PROGRAM. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT, SINCE AID BILL WILL NOT BE SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENT BEFORE OCTOBER, SITUATION IN PORTUGAL MAY HAVE CLARIFIED BY THEN. ELIASSON ALSO NOTED THAT INVITATION FROM GOS TO AFM TO SEND DELEGATION TO SWEDEN IN SEPTEMBER (STOCKHOLM 3480) HAS BEEN ACCEPTED

IN PRINCIPLE; HOWEVER, NO TIME HAS BEEN SET FOR THE VISIT.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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